GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:425
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017
Ration Cards for BPL People
Choudhary Shri Ram Tahal

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the needy people and the people living below poverty line have no ration cards in Jharkhand particularly in Ranchi district whereas the people living there have been demanding for the same;
(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard so as to provide foodgrains at concessional rates to the people living below poverty line?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a) to (c): The National Food Security Act (NFSA) provides for coverage of upto 86.48% of rural and 60.20% of urban population of Jharkhand for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains which at 2011 census population works out to be 264.25 lakh persons.
After implementation of NFSA, criteria of identification of beneficiaries/households has been delinked from BPL/APL categories and the beneficiaries are identified by State/UT Governments under two Categories namely [i]Antyodaya Anna Yojana[AAY] Households and [ii] Priority Households. Eligible households are entitled to receive foodgrains[rice, wheat or coarsegrains or any combination thereof] at the rate of Rs. 3/-, 2/- and Re 1/- per kg respectively with entitlements of priority household being @ 5 kgs per person per month and AAY families getting @ 35 kgs per family per month.
Under the Act, it is the responsibility of the State Government to identify AAY households to extent prescribed by the Central Government in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the Scheme and remaining households as priority households as per the criteria evolved by them. It is therefore entirely upto the State Government to include any particular category of persons under priority category for receiving benefits under NFSA, or otherwise.
Implementation of the Act in Jharkhand has started w.e.f. October, 2015 and based on identification of beneficiaries reported by the State Government, 144.96 thousand tons of foodgrains per month is being allocated to the State Government for 263.70 lakh persons, comprising 37.98 lakh persons belonging to 9.17 lakh AAY households and 225.72 lakh persons belonging to priority households.
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